UNITED NATIONS **A**

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/52/322
5 September 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fifty-second session
Items 40 and 81 of the provisional agenda*

COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE

MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Letter dated 5 September 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a letter from Mr. Hassan Hassanov, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijan Republic, addressed to you (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under items 40 and 81 of the provisional agenda.

(Signed) Eldar KOULIEV
Permanent Representative

* A/52/150 and Corr.1.

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ANNEX

[Original: Russian]

Letter dated 5 September 1997 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan addressed to the Secretary-General

I am writing to express my deep concern about the signing in Moscow on 29 August 1997 of the Treaty between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Armenia on friendship, cooperation and mutual assistance.

We are particularly concerned about the articles of the Treaty which provide for the two States to render military assistance to each other in exercise of the right of collective self-defence under Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, the joint use of military facilities and installations, cooperation in the sphere of military production, including the financing of military programmes and the export and import of military technology and weapons, and the joint operation of defence facilities.

The provisions of the Treaty formally established a Russian-Armenian military alliance which, in the circumstances of the continuing armed conflict between the Republic of Armenia and the Azerbaijani Republic, when 20 per cent of the territory of Azerbaijan has been occupied and over one million people have become refugees and displaced persons, constitutes a direct threat to our security, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The provisions of the Treaty may legalize the illegal Russian arms deliveries to Armenia worth over one billion United States dollars which have already upset the military balance in the region.

The signing of the Treaty demonstrates, on the one hand, that the Republic of Armenia does not intend to resolve the Armenian-Azerbaijani armed conflict by political means, but views the further development of the situation in the region in terms of a continuation of the armed confrontation with the Azerbaijani Republic, and on the other, that the Russian Federation is acting in violation of its obligations as the co-chairman of the Minsk Conference of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the forum designed to eliminate the main consequences of the Armenian-Azerbaijani armed conflict.

Azerbaijan regards the Treaty as a factor which considerably aggravates the tense situation in the armed conflict and weakens the hopes of the peoples of the region for a peaceful settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict, a normalization of relations between the Azerbaijani Republic and the Republic of Armenia, and the establishment of peace and security in the region.

I request you to have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(Signed) Hassan HASSANOV